

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-02 INR-10 IO-14
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

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USSALT TWO/CTB

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: Y 17 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LO;DON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

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1. IN A SPECIAL TO NEW YORK TIMES FLORA LEWIS DISCUSSED
THE MOMENTUM OF SALT DESPITE TENSION BETWEEN U.S. AND
U.S.S.R. LEWIS REPORTS THAT TALKS ARE PROCEEDING "UNTOUCHED
BY DETERIORATION IN THE TEXTURE OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELA-
TIONS." AT DISCUSSIONS RECENTLY HELD IN GENEVA BETWEEN
VANCE AND GROMYKO BOTH SIDES PROPOSED NEW IDEAS THAT MAY
HELP TO RESOLVE OBJECTIONS. HOWEVER, LEWIS NOTES THAT

AGREEMENT ON SOLUTIONS CAN ONLY COME AFTER CAREFUL MATHEMATICAL STUDIES. LEWIS EXPLAINED THAT STRATEGIC ARMS ARE NOT MEANT TO BE USED BUT ARE "MEANT TO CONVINCE THE OTHER SIDE THAT THEY COULD AND WOULD BE USED UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS" AND THUS, CREDIBILITY BECOMES VITAL. LEWIS STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION BECAUSE THE TREATY WILL HAVE TO BE RATIFIED BY SENATE AND THE UNEASINESS WESTERN ALLIANCES ARE FEELING AS THEY BELIEVE THEIR SECURITY AND SURVIVAL ARE AS DIRECTLY INVOLVED AS THOSE OF U.S. ACCORDING TO TEXT, EUROPEANS ARE ALSO WORRIED THAT THREE YEAR PROTOCOL WHICH WILL ACCOMPANY TREATY WILL BECOME PERMANENT AND HENCE, EUROPEANS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DEPLOY CRUISE MISSILES WITH ENOUGH RANGE TO STRIKE SOVIET TARGETS. HOWEVER, LEWIS REPORTED THAT EVEN WITH ALL OF THE OUTSIDE VARIABLES WHICH SEEM TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS, SUCH AS PUBLIC OPINION AND WESTERN EUROPEAN CONCERNS, TALKS GO "ON AT THEIR OWN PACE."

2. RICHARD BURT OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED ON THE OBSTACLES THAT ARE BLOCKING SALT TWO AGREEMENT. BURT STATES THAT EVEN WITHOUT VARIABLES SUCH AS SOVIET DISSIDENT TRIALS AND SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA SALT WAS IN TROUBLE. A COMPROMISE ON TWO CONTROVERSIAL WEAPONS, THE SOVIET BACKFIRE AND U.S. CRUISE MISSILE, WAS PROPOSED WHICH WOULD NOT PLACE EITHER WEAPON UNDER TREATY UNTIL 1985, AND U.S. WOULD STOP DEPLOYMENT OF CRUISE MISSILE IN PROTOCOL ATTACHED TO TREATY

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AND SOVIETS WOULD RESTRICT PRODUCTION AND OPERATION OF BACKFIRE, BURT REPORTS. TEXT CONTENDS THAT COMPROMISE WAS MEANT TO CLEAR THE PATH TO COMPLETE THE AGREEMENT, BUT IT ACTUALLY COMPLICATED AGREEMENT EVEN MORE. OPPONENTS OF SALT TWO FEEL THAT SIMPLE COMMITMENT BY SOVIETS ON BACKFIRE IS MEANINGLESS AND BURT POINTS OUT THAT OTHERS FEEL THAT TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS ON CRUISE MISSILE WOULD BE EXTENDED IN FUTURE TALKS. ACCORDING TO TEXT, AMERICAN NEGOTIATORS ARE NOW PRESSING SOVIETS TO ACCEPT ADDITIONAL LIMITS ON BACKFIRE, WHILE RETAINING OPTION TO DEPLOY CRUISE MISSILE. BURT ALSO DISCUSSED AMERICAN ICBM VULNERABILITY AND NEW PLAN PROPOSED TO PROTECT THESE LAND-BASED MISSILES. THE "SHELL-GAME" PLAN OF MOVING ICBMS AROUND IN A FIELD OF EMPTY SILOS AND DEPLOYMENT OF CRUISE MISSILE, BURT NOTES, DOES NOT "FIT IN WELL WITH THE PLANS OF ARMS CONTROLLERS," NOR DOES SPENDING SEVERAL BILLION DOLLARS ON NEW AIR DEFENSE TO PROTECT U.S. FROM BACKFIRE, BUT THESE COMPROMISES ARE PROBABLY THE PRICE ADMINISTRATION WILL HAVE TO PAY IN ORDER FOR SALT TWO TO BE RATIFIED BY SENATE.

3. HENRY TREWHITT, REPORTING FOR BALTIMORE SUN, STATED THAT TARGET DATE FOR NEW ARMS CONTROL TREATY HAS SLIPPED BY,

DUE TO TRIALS OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS. WITH THE 13-YEAR SENTENCE OF ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY FOR SPYING FOR U.S., OFFICIALS CONTEND THAT SALT CAN NO LONGER BE SEPARATED FROM THE "GENERALLY WORSENING CLIMATE BETWEEN U.S. AND U.S.S.R." ACCORDING TO TREWHITT, ADMINISTRATION IS PROBING INTO POSSIBILITY OF TRADING SOVIET SPIES HELD IN U.S. FOR SHCHARANSKY. SENATE MAJORITY LEADER ROBERT BYRD STATED AT HIS WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THERE IS NO HOPE "THAT THE SENATE WOULD APPROVE A SALT TREATY IN THE PRESENT ATMOSPHERE." AND, ACCORDING TO TEXT, MORE SOVIET DISSIDENTS ARE AWAITING TRIAL AND IF THEIR CASES PRODUCE PENALTIES THAT ARE SEVERE "WE CAN FORGET SALT FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE."

4. JOSEPH ALBRIGHT OF COX NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED A STORY IN UNCLASSIFIED

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WASHINGTON STAR WHICH STATED THAT THE PENTAGON IS CONCERNED THAT LARGE INVENTORY OF SUITCASED SIZED ATOMIC DEMOLITION MUNITIONS OR ADMS HAVE BECOME OBSOLETE BECAUSE OF CHANGES IN NATO STRATEGY. THE ADM IS THE ONLY TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPON WHICH IS NOT COVERED BY A PROGRAM OF COOPERATION WITH THE ALLIES IT IS INTENDED TO PROTECT. DESPITE CRITICISMS, ALBRIGHT POINTS OUT, THE ARMY'S POSITION IS THAT BOTH SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ADMS ARE NEEDED, AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE ADM ROLE EXPANDED. TEXT STRESSED THAT ALTHOUGH THERE IS SOME DOUBT ABOUT USEFULNESS OF ADMS, "THERE IS A RELUCTANCE TO REMOVE THE ADM STOCKPILES FROM EUROPE." OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED THAT WITHDRAWAL WILL BE SEEN BY SOVIETS AS SIGN OF WEAKNESS, TEXT ASSERTS.

5. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS IN A STORY IN WASHINGTON POST STATED THAT BROOKINGS INSTITUTION STUDY REPORTED THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S ARMS SALES POLICY WILL NOT BE MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THE FORD ADMINISTRATION'S "BECAUSE OF SIMILAR INTERPRETATION OF U.S. INTEREST." STUDY CREDITS PRESENT ADMINISTRATION WITH GOOD INTENTIONS, "BUT SAYS IT FACES PRESSURE TO CONTINUE PAST PATTERNS OF ARMS SALES." ACCORDING TO TEXT, LESS THAN A TENTH OF ARMS SALES WERE EARMARKED FOR COUNTRIES NOT SUBJECT TO CARTER'S POLICY OF RESTRAINT.

6. UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHED A STORY IN WASHINGTON STAR, THAT STATED THAT SOVIET UNION "HAS AGREED TO WITHDRAW ITS OBJECTIONS TO UNITED STATES DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW MOBILE MULTIPLE-WARHEAD MISSILE IN EXCHANGE FOR CONCESSIONS THAT ARE WAY TOO HIGH." TEXT REPORTED THAT SOURCES WOULD NOT DISCLOSE WHAT GROMYKO DEMANDED IN RETURN. CHRISTOPHER

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